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Mystery in a bottle
Can you identify it on page 2?

Rail Trail early roots
Tracks of the past on page 8

Bright blue
Delancey's adds a pop of colour on page 11

Susan by Tammy Nash

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Dust Detectives Mystery 4:

Pint-sized

DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

AFTERNO-O-O-O-N! IT'S what Pops always says when Reba and I go searching for him after exploring antiques in his hayloft. Every few mornings, we try figuring out the weirder objects. Reba picked a ratty old blanket last time, so today I'm interested in a glass bottle with a strange pointy screw-on metal top. It seems simple to guess, and it'll be easier to draw than some other pages in my comic series.

We have to climb a ladder to get to Pops' collections. They're all neatly organized, but it looks like he hasn't dusted up here in years. Through a tiny hole in the barn roof, a single sunbeam chooses today's mystery. So when I lift the funny-looking bottle out of the spotlight to show Reba, she nods.

Not only does it need wiping off with our hands, but dust swirls up the skinny sunbeam like part of a dance. Pops once used this barn for ceilidhs with his buddies. Now there's nobody left to play fiddle, accordion or spoons with. Or jig. At least from his original gang.

Reba and I start our guessing routine. I actually think I know what this bottle was once used for. I let her speculate first, but she seems stuck: *to feed milk to sick calves? Watering houseplants? Measuring flour for recipes? An Irish musical instrument, lol?*

Great guesses, I say. And then: *have you read the words on the glass? And why would the spout be metal?*

So Reba reads out loud: *One Full Imperial Pint. ECO Service Station. Toronto Canada…WAIT! I think I know! Was it for putting gas into cars? A pint used to be a Canadian measurement for liquids! Nowadays we mostly use litres.*

You're definitely on the right track, I reply. We carefully climb back down to the dirt floor and walk over to Pops' house. He's outside chatting with his chickens.

Afterno-o-o-o-n! He turns around and winks because it's actually still morning. We were much quicker today. *Let's go inside and have our tea and cookies.*

We both start telling him our conclusions about the bottle. I'm extra excited that we might be right, so I remind myself not to keep interrupting Reba. I let her talk while Pops pours Labrador tea (his latest experiment) into real china cups. We secretly hate it, and add tons of sugar to ours.

You're right on the nose about finding that at gas stations. It was probably used a thousand times. Look at all the dents in the spout! Its contents were poured into the engine of my very first Ford. I had to top it up with a few bottles every hundred miles or so. We don't use Imperial pints in cars any more. It's litres, quarts or gallons. And kids, these bottles held MOTOR OIL, not gasoline. Great guesses, though! And because two pints make one quart, and you're my very own pint-sized detectives, you both deserve a whole QUART of my tea today!

Author's Note

Our second read-aloud newspaper series for today's kids investigates and honours the generations before them. Past lifetimes were as meaningful then as our current realities are to us. Kids everywhere are naturally curious, and they love a good historical mystery. Everyone does!

Artifacts are not always recognizable to newer generations. In this series, twin detectives (you might recognize them from Series 1), apply their former teacher's learning approach to examine their great-grandfather's antique collection. There's a real photo every time, questions, speculation, informed answers, and hopefully, revived knowledge around what was once very important to our elders. Enjoy!

Small fries

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

ANGLERS HAVE a lot of opinions regarding the best fish finders on the market. Some think these are the most expensive, state-of-the-art units, with all sorts of GPS, mapping, and imaging options. Others believe in more simple machines that cover the basics and are easier to use and understand.

But I know better. Experience has shown me that the best fish finder out there is a five-year-old kid with a Mickey Mouse fishing rod.

Fish fear them. And you should too.

I don't care what kind of fish finding set up you have, it cannot compete with a little kid with a child's fishing rod paired with a worm and bobber, especially if that kid is adept at chanting "Fishy, fishy, come to me!"

This explains why you will never see young children at bass tournaments or on TV fishing shows. It would be bad for the fish finder industry and frankly embarrassing to the pro anglers too.

Having fished with three five-year-olds of my own, I can tell you that one of the common characteristics I see is their compulsive desire to cast their worm and bobber without any assistance, into places where an experienced angler knows fish should never be but somehow are.

I'm not proud to admit this, but I have never out-fished a five-year-old, and frankly, don't know a single person who can honestly say they have. Also, if you do insist on telling someone you out-fished a five-year-old, it's not like you are going to impress them.

So how does it happen? How does a little person who barely graduated kindergarten get out-fished by a five-year-old?

Typically, what occurs is that I use all my accumulated angling knowledge to find the right location, depth, temperature, and structure where my targeted species should be. Then I use logic to pick out a fly that will mimic the right action and profile and fish at the right depth. I do this while wielding the finest gear I can afford – a reel and rod combination that took me years to customize to the waters I fish and the species I target. Then, after I have taken a dozen or so precisely placed casts, the five-year-old in the boat will yell, "I think I snagged the bottom!"

And just as I turn to look, "the bottom" will charge to the surface and leap high out of the water. This, it turns out, will be a fish so big that I worry the kid will be pulled in.

So, I grab the kid by the handle of the life jacket and get ready for what might be a long fight. Not with the fish – any small, inexperienced child can land one of those in less than two minutes – but with the kid on the way home because they won't stop bragging about their huge fish or comparing it to the "cute baby fish" I caught.

Frankly, it verges on elder abuse.

It doesn't help that the kid keeps asking if I ever caught a fish that big.

I mean, who wants to lie to a child?

I tell you it's enough to drive you crazy. But, if you pay attention, and get past your ego, you might learn a thing or two from their simple but effective methods of fishing.

For instance, last week I started mumbling, "Fishy, fishy, come to me …"

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Haliburton Timber Mart *
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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Contemporary to Classic and a chicken on a vase

IVY KATZ
County Life Staff

Artist Sydni Weatherson holds her handmade glass vase, *Heirloom*, with a story behind it as part of The Henry Goodman Exhibit running now at Rails End Gallery. / IVY KATZ staff

The age old question of which came first: the chicken or the egg? The question might be as old as the ancient relief-style glass carving techniques featured emerging artist, Syndi Weatherson, uses in her hand-made glass vases. In particular, her showcased vase, features of all things, a chicken.

This past Wednesday, glass artist Weatherson gave an Artist Talk at Haliburton's Rails End Gallery. The exhibit and talk is part of FUSION: Ontario Glass & Clay Association's inaugural Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists, running from July 15 to Sept. 5, 2026.

The Henry Goodman Exhibition highlights a dynamic group of emerging voices working in clay and glass today, shared the website.

Weatherson engaged a filled room of curious aficionados and aesthetes alike for an hour on the in-depth studio process of making hand-made, coloured glass vases.

"You have to leave things up to the kiln gods," said Weatherson, explaining that pieces can break unexpectedly, at any point in the process. Sometimes pieces break on their final visit to the kiln, just before completion, after hours of devotion have gone into the art piece. "You have to be able to adapt and adjust. Glass is a very unforgiving medium," she added.

Weatherson fell in love with the art of glass-blowing after having completed the Art Fundamentals at Sheridan College in Oakville. She graduated from the Bachelor of Crafts and Design program in 2022.

The artist followed her graduation with a stint at The Corning Museum of Glass in New York state, perfecting her craft with some of the best artists in the glass-making industry today.

Corning, New York, is known as "Crystal City" or the "mecca of glass" for its rich history in glass making; the museum boasts the world's largest glass and artifact collection, dating back as far as 3,500 years ago.

Corningware, a household name many would recognize, is also the inventor of Pyrex glass, optical fibre, and Gorilla Glass, and maintain their namesake headquarters in the city. Corning continues to specialize in all sorts of glass, for the scientific fields, such as lenses, to the tech fields, such as the glass used in smart phones.

Weatherson's talk was highly informative, complimented with slideshow video examples of her in-studio process. Her knowledge illustrated the gamut from contemporary to classic examples, and went in depth jut enough, to allow the audience to understand the multi-process method from start to finished product.

Weatherson gave practical advice for artists and curious art and glass enthusiasts alike, such as how an engraving lathe is very different from a cutting lathe, when carving designs into glass.

She discussed the process of sanding, and the grit needed, is similar to when one is sanding to refinish wood. She gave an overview of how acids are used to create different layers, often seen in relief-style cameos and ancient tableware, and how she uses it in her work.

Different samples of her work, which are not in the exhibit, were passed around for the more tactile audience members. The textures and various weight of the pieces was something to behold.

Asked about what she does with the glass that shatters in the kiln and whether the glass can be reused again in new projects, Weatherson explained that unfortunately due to iron oxides used in colouring the glass, it cannot be put back into the raw glass area, as "the other artists in the studio-space would probably not appreciate if all the glass has turned blue."

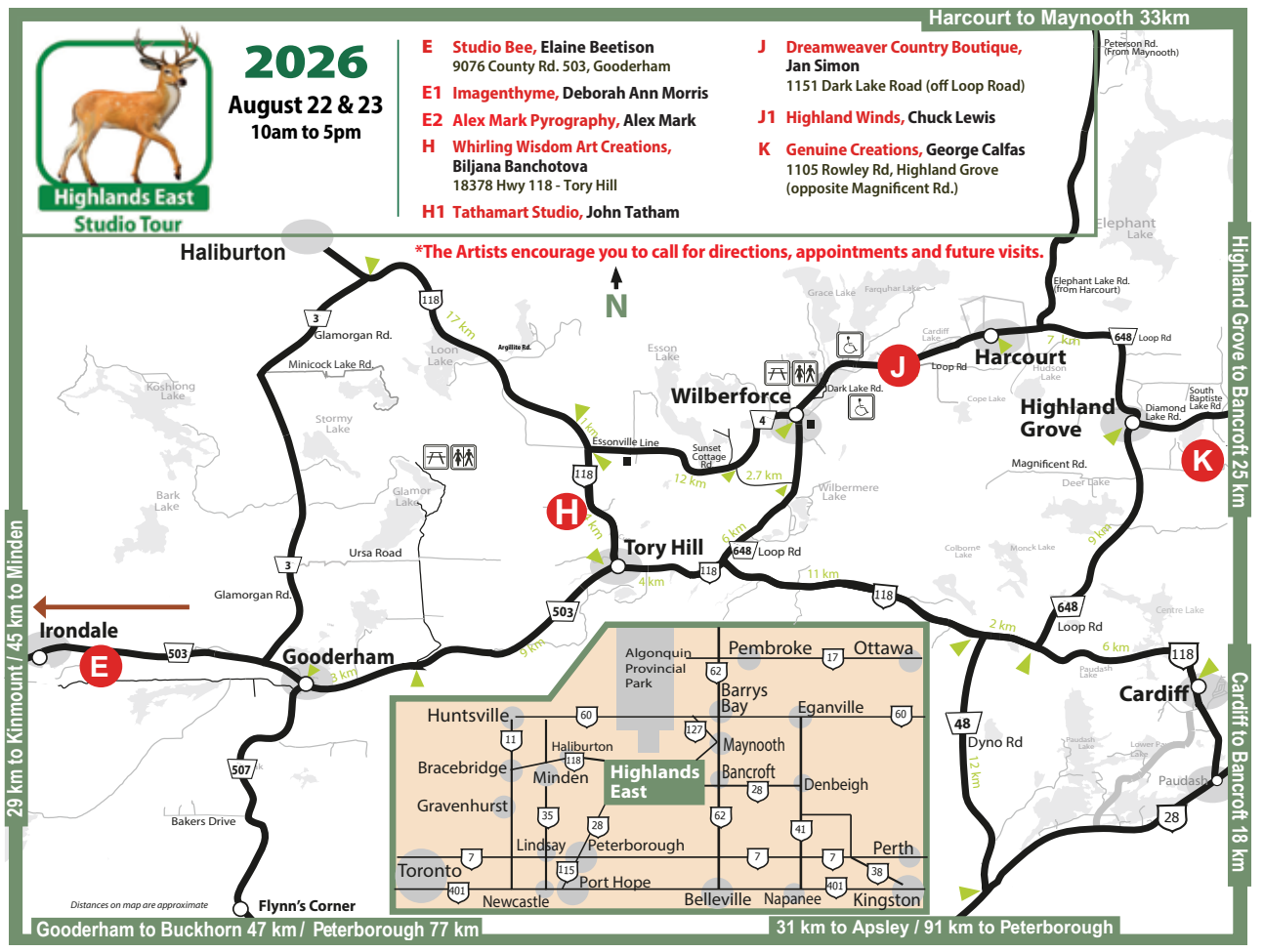
Weatherson acknowledged this dilemma and the different ways she is reducing waste and making the art of glass-making more sustainable. One of those ways is to re-purpose the small pieces of glass into beautiful earrings; impromptu she passed around a pair that she was wearing.

One of Weatherson's more recent endeavours was learning how to solder. She is now actively making stained glass and custom lighting, working on projects with clients.

Clients will describe what they want, and Weatherson is flexible and accommodating, allowing clients to choose how involved they wish to be in the design process. She also works in the studios at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto. Email sydni.weatherson@gmail.com to reach the artist.

As for the chicken on the vase? Weatherson explained her featured chicken vase, officially entitled Heirloom, is made of blown and engraved glass, created in 2024 using 1800s relief-style techniques. Heirloom was inspired partly from her affinity for drawing birds, chickens in particular, but was also in response to the ancient tradition of having women on vases.

Drop into Rails End Gallery to see Weatherson's vase and other beautiful works in person. Visit clayandglass.on.ca to learn more about FUSION: Ontario Clay & Glass Association.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J1 Highland Winds, Chuck Lewis
K Genuine Creations, George Calfas
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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Beaver by Tammy Nash

Merganser babies by Jill Moulton

Loons on the lake by Randy Barber

Yellow-banded Bumblebee by Robert Beeney

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Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

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Sleep

"MAMA?"

I've been in this role long enough to recognize the varying intonations of that single word.

Depending on the pitch, the tone, the volume, I can hear his needs from a mile away. Sense his next move just based on that little voice.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

And that particular 'Mama?' could only mean one thing: we're awake.

I roll over and peer through groggy eyes. 3:12 a.m.

And we're awake.

We're not up for any particular reason. That 'Mama?' didn't signify a bad dream or a wet bed.

It was just a little notice that we're awake. That sleep ran away from us, and we couldn't catch up.

So we get up. But not before we try the tricks and tools that have worked in the past. Lullabies, a back rub, deep breaths and short stories.

And when those don't allow us to tag into sleep, we roll over once again, silently curse the clock, and get on with our day.

Most people need between seven and nine hours of sleep to properly function each day. While sleep recommendations vary by age, there are countless studies on the benefits of sleep when it comes to health, wellness, and awareness. For developmental stages, teens need between 10 and 13 hours, and newborns need between 14 and 17 hours.

For new parents, that number changes drastically. For mothers in particular, during those early years, it's not uncommon (in fact, it's the majority) to clock less than three to five hours of sleep each night.

For years. Years. Years. Years.

Of broken, shortened sleep.

I write this column at 6:02 a.m. After my son and I spent a few quiet hours together in the early morning light, he eventually drifted back into a settled snooze.

But it doesn't work that way for mothers. Our minds are awake. Planning the meetings for the day, the lunches for the older kids, the constant game of Musical Cars, figuring out who is driving who from which camp at what time.

We don't have time to sleep.

And this wears on us, sure. Every mother I know goes through life like this. Fixing the world on broken sleep.

But there are moments. During those early morning hours, with my body weighted down with the remnants of rest, my son cuddles close. His sweet milky breathing, his mind just a little too busy, evading sleep and playing tag.

"Mama?" he says. And I'm here.

And while I'm here, I think of the other mothers out there with me. Their groggy eyes landing on 3:12 a.m., the same as mine. All over the world. A universal exhaustion, shared but rarely discussed, as we wade the waters of motherhood, the expectations of doing it all. Fixing the world on broken sleep.

But here. Our minds busy, our bodies tired, our hearts full.

We're here.

We're awake.

Top 10 reasons why you should never attend media award dinners

AFTER WATCHING bits and pieces of the Whitehouse Correspondence Dinner on social media, it occurred to me that people from the media should never attend these things.

Here are my top 10 reasons:

1. You'd get tired of hearing everyone calling their editor and saying, "I've got a scoop" whenever the ice cream comes around.
2. The only style the journalists care about is their Stylesheet.
3. Get sauce on your tie and you're on the front page, during the next slow news cycle.
4. When asked what he wants for dinner, the politician completely changes the topic.
5. Sure, you might get an award, but so do the humour columnists.
6. It's considered wrong to throw food at the politician who routinely slanders you and your profession.
7. When you ask someone what they thought about the salad dressing, they start with, "This is off the record."
8. Every time someone asks you a question, they yell their name and what paper they work for.
9. Social media influencers are now "journalists" too.
10. When someone asks you where you heard that the dessert might contain nuts, you feel obliged to protect your sources.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

Painter

Path dappled in sunlight and shade, winding through
a cathedral of trees,
breathing Air rinsed by Rain, leaves fluttering high in
their branches, hues of green blotting the blue of Sky,
my eyes peering up in wonder at the tall tall trees,
planted by the painter who knew them as saplings
over a century ago, tendrils of the past growing wild
along the path, leading to the tangled garden that he
painted
with the bold strokes of his brush, slashes of grass
and vines and Sky, colours dancing on the canvas
like leaves on a breeze, the trees welcoming me like
old friends I haven't seen in a long while,
still as solid and serene as I remember, as I walk
through the archway towards the bench where I plan to
sit and inhale
the quiet of Sunday morning, listening to birdsong
bathe Air, in notes as colourful as the painter's garden
that's still there, tended by hands that try to tame the
tangles and plant new seeds, the garden overgrown
with weeds,
wild in its beauty that time hasn't ravaged, a monarch butterfly flitting over the forest of ferns towards
the bench
where a young artist sits, sketching on a pad he cradles on his lap, foiling my plan to rest on the bench,
meandering around the grounds instead, inhaling the
fragrance of grass after Rain,
walking past a pair of crab apple trees that grow
where an orchard once flourished, their gnarled branches calling out
to me to amble over and touch them, feeling the
roughness of the trees' trunks and limbs,
the texture captured on canvases a century old, by
the painter who planted the orchard and sat in his garden
with his palette and paints, the bristles of his brush
birthing bushes and trees and flowers that bloomed
bright as
morning light that spills onto the grass and stone
path, my feet leading me towards the bench where the
young artist
sits, smearing pastels with his fingers on the paper, in
shades of blue and green and grey,
and a splash of pale yellow to capture the light raining down from Sky, I skulk close by, asking if I can
watch,
marveling at his talent, as he nods his head, Yes,
wondering aloud whether this is where the painter sat
with his easel,
immortalizing the trees and garden and the old
wooden shed on his canvases, relics of which remain,
the door and back of the crumbled shed missing, the
space where the door used to be, opening into a forest
of tall tall trees, the young artist capturing the decay
and beauty of that shed in his sketch,
and I answer, Yes, this is maybe where the painter
sat, day after day, year after year, capturing the growth
and seasons
of his garden, and when Snow cloaked the earth, he
painted that too, brushstrokes swirling like snowflakes
across the canvas, in shades of Wind and Sky, while
the garden slept, waiting to be roused come spring,
I watch the artist finish his drawing, smearing pastels
across his pad, in awe of what he has created,
my eyes drawn to the old shed, opening up into
all that green, the young artist capturing something
unseen,
beyond the remains of the shed, murmurs of the
past rustling in the leaves, the painter's spirit drifting
through the trees
that he planted, still here for others to wander
through and capture on a canvas or paper,
the young artist asking me if I think his drawing is
finished, as I peer down at the pastel smears of trees
and Sky,
and the relic of shed surrounded by weeds, and I
answer, I don't know, only he knows, the artist nods his
head,
and says he will come back tomorrow, So will I, I say,
as he sits on the bench, cradling his sketch pad on his
lap,
I stand behind him, listening to birdsong sprinkle
morning Air with notes vibrant as the colours that
dappled
the painter's canvas a century ago, tendrils of his
tangled garden still growing wild,
that tended to his Soul all those decades ago.

Sylvie Kalenda

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Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Nail Driving
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Start Time	Birds of Prey	Lumber Jacks	Sheep Shearing	Pie Eating	Penny Raffle	Pockets the Clown	Cake Walk	Horse Draw	Drum Circle	Pedal Tractor Pull	Bull Show Down
10:00											
10:30											
11:00											
11:30											
12:00											
12:30											
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Legend
Arena
Outside
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Green
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County Life
Bancroft THIS WEEK

Glimpses of the past

Rails End

BY THE 1870s there were sufficient economic reasons to extend a railway from the south into the interior of what is now Haliburton County. The Lindsay, Fenelon Falls, and Ottawa Railway was chartered in 1872 with the name later being changed to the Victoria Railway. Initially the plan was to run it all the way to the Ottawa River but it never went beyond Haliburton Village.

Finance was always a problem and construction costs were grossly underestimated. Grants from the province and some of the local corporations helped out, but bridges, rock cuts and embankments added to the expense. Local labour was unreliable as many people were only available seasonally with farming and logging being their first option. Immigrants were brought from Iceland who worked on the Kinmount end of the line.

After construction, connections were made with the Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa Line through Howland Junction. By 1913 there were four trains a day going through Kinmount. Time passed, the line was taken over by the Midland Railway Company, and eventually was absorbed into the Grand Trunk Railway system. In 1923 Canadian National Railways took over.

In the 1960s, I accompanied my Uncle Ralph Percy on the last passenger train between Haliburton and Lindsay. By 1982 the rails were taken up, and the right of way became a hiking trail. This photograph shows the Haliburton Station, likely in the 1940s and the 1950s.

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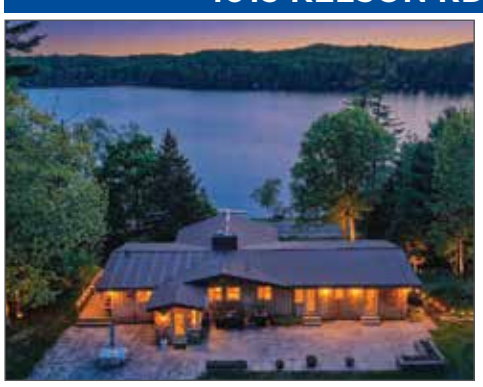

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Back in Black

AC/DC tribute band, 21 Gun Salute, rocked the Kennisis Lake Marina on July 25, with shredding guitar, blaring vocals, and a whole lot of drums, the event drew people of all ages to sing, dance, and jive along with the rock band. The show continues the summer events the local marina is offering, with Jim Cuddy presenting on Aug. 16. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: August 6, 5:30 pm to Dusk
Where: A&W Parking Lot, Haliburton
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: August 12, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Edgewater Grill, Kinmount
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Canadian/American Relations 1840 – 1900
When: Aug. 12, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, foot of Rock Cut, corner of Hwy 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. The AC will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: August 13, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Kawartha Dairy, Minden
Weather Permitting.These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Canadian/American Relations since 1900
When: Aug. 19, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, foot of Rock Cut, corner of Hwy 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. Each session features a unique theme plus new local stories and vignettes not shared before. The Air Conditioning will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: Aug. 20, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: A&W Parking Lot, Haliburton
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Old Times Afternoon Tea - Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost
Saturday, Aug. 22, 1 to 4 p.m.. Enjoy old fashioned tea and sweets. Bring a friend and make new ones in a special place

Travels to Poland
When: Aug. 26, 8 to 9 p.m.
Where: Miners' Bay Church, foot of Rock Cut, corner of Hwy 35 and Miners' Bay Rd.
Weekly Wednesday-night history presentations exploring local history, significant past events, and personal stories from the presenter's own life. The AC will be on, and complimentary cold drinks provided. All are welcome!

Classic Vehicle Cruise Night
When: August 27, 5:30 p.m. to Dusk
Where: Kawartha Dairy, Minden
Weather Permitting. These events are open to owners of Classic Automobiles and the people who love them.

Poetry with Patricia
When: Thursday, Aug. 27 at 2:30 p.m.
Where: In the Theatre at the Gardens of Haliburton, 1 Sunnyside St., Haliburton
Calling all poetry lovers! A journey together that's a combination of memory-sharing, creativity, conversation, and community-building. "Where Memories Become Poems." Hosted by Patricia Miller, Director of Community Relations and published Poet and Author. RSVP to 705-457-4848.

Legion Events

Branch 624 Wilberforce
Mondays: Open 7 to 10 p.m. – Aug. 10, 17, 24 & 31 Darts 7 pm, $5/player, Mexican Train Dominos 7 p.m.,
Aug. 10 – Painting Class 10 a.m.
Tuesdays: Closed, Special Events Only.
Aug. 11 – General Meeting 7 p.m., Aug. 11 & 18 - Exercise Club 1 p.m.
Wednesdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m. – Aug. 12, 19 & 26 - Darts at 2 p.m., $5/player, $10 LA Quick supper 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Open 2 to 10 p.m. – Aug. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Horsehoes 7 p.m., $5/person. Aug. 20 – Painting class with Luann 10 a.m., Aug. 13, 27 - HHHS Social Rec at 10 a.m.
Fridays: Open 2 to 11 p.m. – Aug. 7 & 21 – Fish & Chips 5 to 8 p.m., 1pc - $15, 2pc - $20, Aug. 14 & 28 - Wings and Jam Session 5 to 8 p.m. - $15/lb, Aug. 28 – Seniors Lunch 12 – 1pm, $20.
Saturdays: Open 2 to close – Aug. 8, 15, 22 & 29 - Meat Draw 3 p.m. $1/ticket, Aug. 8 – Dunk the Legion President at the Wilberforce Fair 12 – 2 p.m., Aug. 15 – Trip info/sign up meeting 1p.m., Aug. 22 – Karaoke 8 p.m., Aug. 29 – Dorothy Knight Gold Tournament Lakeside Golf Course - $140/ Legion member, $150/non-member, sign up at branch (cash only) – includes golf, lunch & bus. Bus leaves 7:30 a.m., for more information contact Frank 705-808-5298.
Sundays: Closed, Special Events Only.
Aug. 9 – LA Breakfast, 9 – 11 a.m. - $10
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

Branch 441 Kinmount
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Branch 129 Haliburton
Planning a function, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden
Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, No Darts for the Summer. Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 - 11 p.m.
Friday - Full menu 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fish and Chips and Wings 4 to 7 p.m..
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636

Delancey's celebrates move with splash of blue

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

For a couple of self-identified 'ski bums' once hailing from Ottawa, owning a sports shop in cottage country is a dream come true.

Erika Mozes and Joshua Karam have been the owners of Delancey Sports in downtown Haliburton since 2020. While their background was with a tech company based out of New York City, they felt the need to return to Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With cottage ties in Haliburton County, the couple returned to the community, and while they were setting down their roots, on a whim, they popped into Sharpley's Source for Sports, once housed on the main street.

"While we were shopping for ski stuff, someone mentioned that Joanne (Sharpley) was retiring," said Mozes. "So on our drive home, we were really thinking about how someone should open a sporting goods store in Haliburton."

Initially, they chalked their idea up to a pipe dream retirement plan, but when life shifted and their tech work rerouted, a sports store was suddenly in the cards. "So we're doing it," said Mozes. "We're trying to build this community hub."

Originally housed in a smaller location next to the Kozy Korner, the couple always dreamed of creating a space that offered more than just sporting goods.

While they are the go-to shop for hockey, skiing, running, and any other specialty sport, they also wanted to create a space where everyone - regardless of sporting expertise - can feel welcome.

That's when they opened their arcade. "We tested out our arcade last summer," said Mozes, "and people loved it."

As their community hub continued to expand, their available space suddenly seemed smaller and smaller. The couple had been eyeing a few local properties, loyal to their Haliburton roots, but wanted to round out their vision before making any leaps.

"Once we had that vision of making it more of a destination, instead of just a sporting good store, it really came together," said Mozes. "We really wanted to build it into more than just Delancey's Sporting Goods."

The local entrepreneurs made the jump to 212 Highlands Street in December of last year. Due to the sidewalk repairs that dominated the downtown core in early spring, they were just able to complete their exterior painting until early summer.

A splash of bright blue, the store reflects the energy, enthusiasm, and boldness of the owners. "It's a work in progress," said Mozes, "but we have our vision."

On top of the arcade, Delancey's now houses a golf simulator with its offerings, something that has been in demand from both a local and a visiting audience.

And with ties to the original Molou next door, Mozes has plans of offering movie nights on the golf simulation screen, mirroring an old theatre.

While the summer months are bustling with foot traffic, and the winter season busy at the Sir Sam's ski shop, the entrepreneurial couple are committed to putting the Haliburton Highlands on the map.

Last year, they launched their partnership with iconic Canadian brand Roots. While on a trip to Whistler, Mozes noted the branded location hoodies sold at tourist destinations out west. "We should really have these in Haliburton," she said, noting how well the brand ties into the cottage-core of the community.

Through discussions with the Roots marketing team, who coincidentally had ties to the area, Delancey's officially launched their Roots Haliburton line last summer. "It's great for everyone," said Mozes, "and it really puts Haliburton out there in the world."

Delancey's Sports is open seven days a week, and located at 212 Highland Street. "There's so much going on here," said Mozes, "and we're just happy to be a part of it."

Delancey Sports spruced up the front of their newly-purchased building this summer. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Delancey's Arcade is a happening hub at the back of the sports store.

Boots and beats; line dancing at the Legion

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Line dancing is scheduled for weekly sessions throughout the summer in an effort to get more people interested in the experience. /IVY KATZ staff

While Karley Stevenson may not consider herself musically inclined, she knows that dance flows through her spirit and soul.

Growing up in Alberta, Stevenson was taught country dancing right from elementary school, so when she moved to Ontario as an adult, its absence was noted.

Three years ago, when she returned to the west for Christmas, she found her dancing boots. "And I went to my mom's and I just started crying," Stevenson recalled, "I had missed dancing so much."

While Stevenson noted that she did not introduce line dancing to the area, she started offering the program in the evenings, to allow for a broader audience to access the classes. "People are hooked right away," she said, "it's not just dancing, you're learning at the same time."

Line dancing is a type of choreographed dance where individuals follow the same steps and positions along with music. It's rising popularity through varying generations can be credited to social media, with viral videos popping up from all over the world showing the uniform dances.

"It uses your brain, your mental capacity, plus the physical exercise, and of course the social benefits," said Stevenson. "There are studies done on this dance and it's just amazing."

With the multi-faceted benefits, Stevenson has committed to offering weekly sessions for those interested. She's hosting them at the Haliburton Legion on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with anyone and everyone welcome to come lace up their boots.

But don't worry, boots aren't a requirement. Any sort of closed-toed shoe will do; something that is comfortable without being too slippery. Stevenson says she sees a regular average of 15 to 30 participants each week. "We try to accommodate everyone," she said, noting that some attendees are locals, while others come by in the summer months during their seasonal cottage stays.

On top of the regular, weekly sessions, Stevenson offers pop-ups and events with line dancing, encouraging those curious in the sport to try it out.

For more information and to book a line dancing lesson, visit always.in.boots on Instagram, or email Stevenson at always.in.boots.cd@gmail.com.

"It's not about perfecting every dance," said Stevenson, "it's about exercising and meeting new people and just having fun. And as an added bonus, eventually, you get the hang of it."

Soccer stars

The kids of Haliburton County gather on Tuesday and Thursday nights for their weekly soccer games, led by Haliburton Grassroots Soccer. With unpredictable weather early in the season, the soccer stars have been learning lots of skills these past few weeks. /submitted

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

ROYAL HOMES

Part-Time Client Services & Administrative Assistant
Royal Homes Cottage Country - Minden
Job Type: Part-time, on-site
Pay: $19 to $22 per hour based on qualifications

Job Summary
Royal Homes Cottage Country is seeking a dependable, organized and personable Part-Time Client Services & Administrative Assistant to support our Minden Sales Centre.

This is a client-facing position. The successful candidate will often be the first person to welcome prospective clients, answer their questions and help them take the next step toward building a new home or cottage. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office and or Google workspace preferred.

The position combines reception, customer service, client follow-up, file organization and general office administration. We are looking for someone who communicates professionally, pays close attention to detail, and can keep multiple client files and follow-up items organized.

Thank you in advance for your interest.
Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

TO APPLY: email resume to tan@royalhomescottagecountry.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CURRY GMC

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. is looking for a motivated, customer-focused **SERVICE ADVISOR** to join our growing team in Haliburton.
If you enjoy working with people, thrive in a fast-paced environment, and take pride in delivering exceptional service, we'd love to hear from you.

Key Responsibilities:
- Greet customers and act as the main point of contact throughout their service visit
- Listen to customer concerns and clearly explain recommended maintenance and repairs
- Write accurate repair orders and communicate effectively with technicians
- Provide transparent timelines, estimates, and updates to customers
- Promote and upsell maintenance services based on manufacturer recommendations
- Ensure a high level of customer satisfaction and CSI performance
- Handle warranty, internal, and customer-pay work efficiently
- Maintain organized service records and follow dealership processes

Qualifications:
- Previous Service Advisor or automotive experience preferred (GM experience an asset)
- Strong customer service and communication skills
- Ability to multitask and stay organized in a busy service department
- Professional, friendly, and solution-oriented attitude
- Basic computer skills and familiarity with DMS systems (experience an asset)
- Valid Ontario driver's licence

What We Offer:
- Competitive compensation package
- Ongoing training and career development opportunities
- Supportive team environment with a locally owned dealership

Thank you for your interest! Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
Send your resumes to Jill Coombes, Service Manager
jill@currychevrolet.ca

CURRY GMC

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd. is seeking a
LICENSED AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN (310S)
to join our service team. As a key member of our dealership, you will play an essential role in delivering a high-quality service experience while ensuring vehicle safety, reliability, and customer satisfaction.

Key Responsibilities:
- Perform vehicle maintenance and repairs as assigned
- Diagnose vehicle malfunctions and complete repairs accurately and efficiently
- Inspect vehicles to identify additional safety or service-related needs
- Communicate repair procedures and findings clearly with Service Advisors
- Complete road tests and safety inspections
- Maintain productivity while meeting dealership quality standards
- Support overall service department efficiency and customer satisfaction

Qualifications:
- Valid Automotive Service Technician Certificate of Qualification (310S)
- Strong mechanical and diagnostic aptitude
- Valid Ontario Driver's Licence (Class G) with a clean driving record
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment
- Positive, professional attitude with strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to operate both manual and automatic transmissions
- Previous dealership experience preferred; GM training considered an asset

What We Offer:
- Competitive compensation based on experience
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities
- Supportive team environment in a locally owned dealership

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LEIC committee meets in Minden

by Misty Bennett

The amalgamation of the three school boards (Muskoka, Victoria and Haliburton County) is less than five months away.

The new board will take control of the schools in these areas as of January 1, 1998. However, this process is not one that is being handled lightly. The decisions leading up to the amalgamation of the boards lie partly in the hands of the Local Education Improvement Committee (LEIC). The committee has already held one public meeting in Victoria County, with another planned for later this month in Muskoka.

The group met publicly last week in Minden in order to respond to any questions or concerns raised by the people it hopes to serve - taxpayers, parents, teachers, employees and of course students.

The LEIC is accountable to the provincial Education Improvement Commission (EIC). It will lay the groundwork for the establishment of the new district school board within the government's legislative framework, on the basis of directives and guidelines issued by the provincial EIC. The LEIC will focus on assembling and preparing work plans to facilitate a smooth transition to the district school board. These work plans will help guide the new boards in its initial decision-making and planning.

The LEIC is composed of equal representation from each of the three boards of education.

Few questions were presented from the floor but the LEIC dealt with many weighty issues. The recurring theme at the meeting, which lasted from 9:30 in the morning until about 3:45 p.m., was that the students be served well by the transition team and that the switch to an amalgamated board be as easy on them as possible.

One of the difficulties facing the LEIC is that key directives from the provincial government are not yet available. While it attempts to deal with some of the issues within its area of responsibility, it often finds its work hampered by lack of clear direction from Queen's Park. The committee has written to the government requesting clarifications, but has yet to receive a response.

The LEIC maintains three subcommittees (Human Resources, Business and Education) each dealing with more specific areas of the transition.

Trustee numbers set

The final number of trustees for the new board of education has been decided. The total will be nine; five representing Victoria County, three representing Muskoka District and one for Haliburton County. The decision was based on the geography of the area, the clustering of the schools and the population numbers of the individual boards.

No decisions have yet been made as to the location of the central board office, or whether it would be possible to maintain a number of satellite offices as well as, or instead of a central office. These options were all discussed at the meeting but it will likely be a considerable time before any suggestions will be made.

The location of the boartd office will likely be a contentious issue since there are a variety of opinions among

(more on page 2)

Tanner Ballantyne was mesmerized by the antics of Puffy the Clown, an entertainer who appeared at Wednesday's Rotary Carnival in Minden. The son of John and Kim Ballantyne of Minden, Tanner was among many children and adults who took in the fun of the annual carnival at the community centre. (MB)

Two killed in Halls Lake tragedy

Two women are dead following a car accident at Halls Lake on Saturday, August 2.

Dead are 40 year old Carmela Gallippe of North York and 41 year old Piera Rossi of Mississsauga.

The two cousins were walking along the side of the road when they were struck by a car driven by 20 year old David Caplan of North York.

A third woman, Nancy Cochi of Woodbridge, was walking with the pair but escaped injury.

According to witnesses, Caplan was southbound on Highway 35 and had just passed the Halls Lake Fish and Chip stand when he swerved to avoid a dead aninal on the roadway. The action sent his car out of control striking a rock cut before slamming into the two pedestrians who were walking north on the west shoulder of the road.

The mishap occurred at 11:30 Saturday morning.

Stanhope fire fighters, OPP and ambulance personnel were dispatched to the scene. Efforts to revive the two women at the scene, by firefighters and by-standers, failed. One person who arrived shortly after the accident occurred said many unidentified indiduals stepped forward to assist in the rescue effort including a nurse and an off-duty Toronto firefighter. The by-standers assisted by administering CPR and helping with traffic control until a large enough emergency reponse team arrived.

Police say that alcohol was not believed to have been a factor in the accident.

Caplan and an unidentified passenger were taken to Minden Hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Before the two women were pronounced dead at the scene, an air ambulance had been notified and was standing by to airlift the injured from Minden Hospital.

Stanhope firefighters remained on the scene until 5:30 p.m., assisting with traffic control and accident scene clean-up as police carried out an extensive investigation of the crash site.

Carol Fischer, the operator of the fish and chip shop, who witnessed the accident and called the Stanhope Fire Department said "This is a terrible thing to have happened. It will take a long time for everyone to get over it."

The three women were vacationing at a nearby Halls Lake cottage as they had done during the past six years.

The women leave behind six children ranging in age from 5 to 19 years.

The police investigation of the accident continues.

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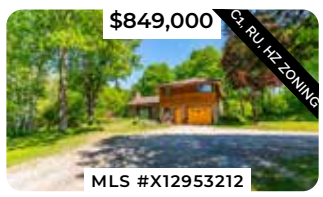
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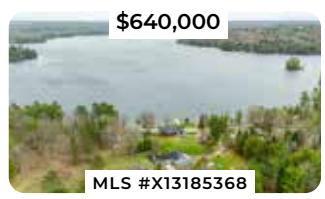
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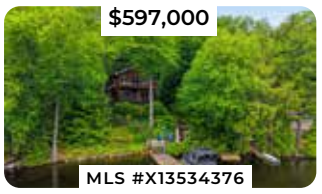
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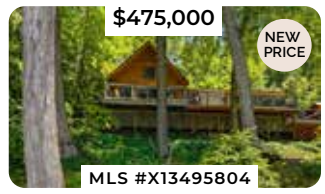
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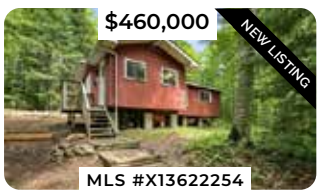
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